

HEALTH CARE REFORM

(Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Madam Speaker, by now, we all know the many flaws with the health care bill that is going to be rammed through this House, and there certainly are many.

It cuts Medicare by one-half trillion dollars. It raises taxes, jeopardizes patient access to health care, and puts an unelected bureaucrat, or many bureaucrats, in charge of your health care.

I want to tell a brief story about something that happened to me this weekend.

I was in a local drugstore with a friend of mine waiting for a prescription, and a woman came up to me and she said, Are you GINNY BROWN-WAITE? And I said, Yes, ma'am. And she said, I want to talk to you about the health care bill.

She proceeded to tell me, she said, I am about to lose my job, which means I will lose my health care. And I thought I knew what she was next going to say, and she totally shocked me. She pointed to her daughter, who she told me was 9 years old, and she said, But I don't want you to vote for that bill, Congresswoman, because I don't want this child and her children paying for an out-of-control health care system in America.

I believe that she really speaks the way most Americans believe.

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(Mr. MCKEON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MCKEON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to voice my strong opposition to the majority's attempt to have the Federal Government take over the national health care system. This has been a yearlong debate, and it is clear that the American public does not want this bill. People are justifiably outraged at the contempt the majority has shown to them.

Everything my constituents dislike is still in the majority's health care bill: billions in new taxes on small businesses and families, over \$1 trillion in new Federal spending, a health care czar to make health care decisions for families, a Federal mandate to buy health insurance, hundreds of billions in Medicare cuts, expanding access to abortion, and sleazy backroom deals.

If this is the panacea that the majority claims it is, then why is it that they are refusing to allow a straight up-or-down vote? Do you think you can fool them with procedural gimmicks such as deeming a bill passed without actually voting on it? I don't think so, and I think it is shameful to try.

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(Mr. GERLACH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. GERLACH. Madam Speaker, as I stand here today, congressional Democrat leadership has yet to finalize or publish the so-called fix-it bill that will ultimately be the basis to gather the 216 votes necessary to pass health care reform, and they certainly haven't said how much it is going to cost; yet Democrat after Democrat has gotten up here today saying that they are for this legislation.

So think about it. How can you be for a bill that is not yet written, not yet finalized, not yet published, and for which no one knows how much it is going to cost? The answer is simple. It is really not about how much it costs or how many people it will cover; it is about control, government control over who is going to make health care decisions in this country. And that is exactly what the American people are rejecting.

Madam Speaker, the swamp isn't being drained through this process; it apparently is just getting deeper and wider.

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(Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Wake up, America. The Speaker is trying to pass the health care bill without letting America see it first. In fact, she said, "I have to pass the bill so you can find out what is in it." She is also shooting for a voteless passage, and that is unconstitutional.

Well, I can tell my Democrat colleagues what is in it. The health care bill is littered full of sweetheart deals, one after another, from the Louisiana purchase to the Cornhusker kickback. What is another term for hustling votes? Buying them.

The American people are fed up with secret backroom deals in smoke-filled rooms. It is no wonder all Americans are clear in their opposition to what they have seen, read, and heard on health care.

Bring the real Senate bill to the floor for an honest up-or-down vote. These sneaky shenanigans defy common sense, and the American people want, need, and deserve better.

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(Mr. MAFFEI asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MAFFEI. Madam Speaker, this morning I stood at the American Cancer Society in my district and announced that I will support the President's historic reform effort. I am supporting it because right now sky-

rocketing health care costs aren't just crippling the U.S. economy; they are emptying pocketbooks in central and western New York.

Regular, middle class people can't afford the health care they need. Insurance companies have denied care. Kids are graduating from college and they can't find care. People with life-threatening conditions need to hold bake sales and bowl-a-thons in order to pay their health care bills. Families are going bankrupt not because they were irresponsible, but because they trusted their health insurance companies.

Now, experts and nonpartisan organizations say that this bill will save money. I believe that the cost-savers in this bill will save money, but I know that doing nothing will bankrupt our country and our families and our small businesses.

I stood this morning with two remarkable women from my district. One had insurance and one did not. They are both battling cancer. For them, this debate isn't about partisan politics; it is about their lives. They strongly support this effort, and so do I.

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(Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Madam Speaker, in 2017, Medicare goes insolvent. It goes broke in 2017. So do the Democrats have a plan to reform and save Medicare? No. The Democrats' plan actually raids one-half trillion dollars from Medicare to create a massive new government-controlled health care program.

So even though the Speaker is writing this bill behind closed doors in secret, Madam Speaker, the American people, particularly senior citizens, are not being fooled. They oppose this massive bill that will nationalize health care and that will raid one-half trillion dollars from Medicare. They oppose it, and so should we.

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(Mr. GOHMERT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. GOHMERT. Madam Speaker, this bill is based on so many fictions, it should not be passed. One is that we're going to do a rule and then that is going to be self-perpetuating. And that's going to pass the bill. That's a fiction. It ought to be an up-or-down vote on this bill. And if you read the very basics on this bill from the Senate, it says, Resolved, the bill from the House of Representatives, H.R. 3590, entitled: An act to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify the first-time homebuyers credit in the case of members of the Armed Forces.

We're going to pass this on the backs of the Armed Forces. This should not